

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks.

By the foregoing amendment, claims 29 and 30 have been canceled and claims 39 and 40 have been amended. No new matter has been added. Thus, claims 1-28 and 31-40 are currently pending in the application and subject to examination.

I. Allowed Claims

In the Office Action mailed October 12, 2006, the Examiner allowed claims 1-28 and 31-38.

II. 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 29-30, 39 and 40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. The Applicant notes that claims 29 and 30 have been canceled. Claims 39 and 40 have been amended responsive to this rejection. The Applicant submits that "the time after the second entry signal is supplied . . ." as recited in claim 39 has antecedent basis in "the time after the second entry signal is supplied . . ." in claim 18, from which claim 39 depends. Therefore, the Applicant respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejection of claims 39 and 40 under 35 U.S.C. § 112.

III. 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 29-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,545,943 to Mizugaki et al. The Applicant notes that claim 29 and 30 have been canceled.

For all of the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the claims now pending patentability distinguish the present invention from the cited references.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections and an issuance of a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

CONCLUSION

Should the Examiner determine that any further action is necessary to place this application into condition for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned representative at the number listed below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicant hereby petitions for an appropriate extension of time. The fee for this extension may be charged to our Deposit Account No. 01-2300. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 01-2300 with reference to Attorney Docket No. 108075-00114.

Respectfully submitted,

Arent Fox PLLC



Sheree T. Rowe
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 59,068

Customer No. 004372
1050 Connecticut Ave., N.W.
Suite 400
Washington, D.C. 20036-5339
Telephone No. (202) 715-8492
Facsimile No. (202) 638-4810